



Gaithersburg

A CHARACTER COUNTS!

CITY OF GAITHERSBURG

MINUTES OF A CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, April 8, 2013

A work session of the Mayor and City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m., Mayor Katz presiding. Council Members present: Ashman, Drzyzgula, Marraffa, Sesma, and Spiegel. Staff present: City Manager Tomasello, Parks, Recreation and Culture Potter, Planning & Code Administration Director Schlichting, Neighborhood Services Director Roman, and City Attorney Board.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. STATEMENT

Mayor Katz Read the Following Statement Regarding Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Gun Violence Position

The City of Gaithersburg and other members of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) have been discussing the issue of gun violence in our communities and appropriate ways to address this serious problem. At its March meeting the Policy Board of the MWCOC adopted the entirety of the position announced by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) as the MWCOC policy. Councilmember Cathy Drzyzgula voted against this action after consulting with the Gaithersburg Mayor and City Council and our Police Chief, Mark Sroka. The position taken by Council Member Drzyzgula and subsequently by the Mayor and Council speaks to the process by which MWCOC's position was established, and the fact that the MWCOC position does not address associated issues such as education and mental health.

After a motion to direct MWCOC's internal committees, including the Human Services and Public Safety, Police Chief's and Fire Chief's committees, to review options and propose a policy to the board failed on a tie vote, the motion to adopt the IACP position was adopted. A letter of concern signed by a dozen MWCOC board members, including Council Member Drzyzgula, who serves as President of the MWCOC Corporation Board, was immediately sent to the MWCOC Board of Directors. The specific views of the City of Gaithersburg were expressed in a separate letter sent on April 3 to the 21 member jurisdictions. Both letters are posted on our website. The proposal to send Gaithersburg's letter was publicly discussed in the "From the Mayor and Council" portion of our meeting on April 2, which can be viewed online as well. The discussion starts approximately 31 minutes into the meeting.

III. DISCUSSION TOPICS

A. Presentation from the New Branch Manager of the Gaithersburg Library

Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture Potter introduced Kay Bowman, the new Branch Manager of Gaithersburg Library. Ms. Bowman provided a floor plan and toured through the proposed renovated and expanded 60,000 square foot facility. She explained that the County is partnering with the Gilchrist Center regarding the space on the second floor that has the capability to accommodate up to 300 people. She reviewed the collection of books, programs

and services to be offered. The new library currently under construction, is projected to be open in the fall of 2013. Michele Potter then shared highlights of ideas that were generated from a joint meeting of how the City can partner with the library, including, but not limited to: the Gaithersburg Book Festival, Multicultural Affairs and Education Enrichment Committees, intergenerational programming with seniors from the Senior Center, children from the City's Tot Time Program, incorporating the City's Six Pillars of Character, promotion of financial literacy, the City's Bank on Gaithersburg Program, artist exhibitions, recruitment of volunteers, and utilization of space for City classes and programs.

IV. Commission on Common Ownership Communities

Neighborhood Services Director Roman made a presentation on the results of the Commission on Common Ownership Communities (CCOC) Survey. The presentation provided the results and analysis of the data received from residents of common ownership communities, board of directors and property managers. A summary of positions and comments were discussed on the supporting and opposing positions of Gaithersburg opting into the CCOC program. It was noted that the response rate was very low from the targeted recipients and therefore, the results may not be a true indication of the majority of residents and associations. Following the presentation, Commissioner Elizabeth Molloy and Commission staff member Peter Drymalski answered questions from the City Council on Commission procedures and operations. Several members of the public also commented on the Commission both in support and opposition of the City's potential utilization of this County's service. The City Council thanked the presenters and directed staff to explore other opportunities for residents and associations to provide additional input.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this session of the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Potter, Director
Parks, Recreation and Culture

John Schlichting, Director
Planning & Code Administration

Kevin Roman, Director
Neighborhood Services